

**Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi Reaffirms Support for Single-Payer Healthcare by Backing Universal Medicare Bill at Rally in Los Angeles**



SACRAMENTO - Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi, California's first elected insurance commissioner and a long-time advocate for single-payer health care, spoke at a rally today to express his strong support for a universal health insurance – HR 676- by Democratic Michigan Congressman John Conyers.

"I know a little bit about the insurance companies. I was your insurance commissioner for eight years," said Lieutenant Governor Garamendi, a former Deputy Director of the Interior under President Bill Clinton. "I know they have but one purpose, and that's the bottom line: profit. As long as they are in this game, America will continue to be ripped off. And it's time for us to end that with a single-payer universal health care program, and HR 676 is a way to get it done."

The United States National Health Care Act would create a publicly financed, privately delivered health care system that improves and expands the already existing Medicare. It would ensure that all Americans have access to the highest quality and most cost effective health care services regardless of their employment, income or health care status.

"Forty-one years ago, America figured out how to solve this problem. 41 years ago America created a single-payer universally available health care system that covers everyone who is over 65," Garamendi added. "That policy allows you to choose your own doctor wherever they may be. That policy allows you to have a comprehensive benefit package. We know how to do this America. All we need to do is take the 65; erase it; write in zero; and send your premiums into the Medicare office. Now that's change we can believe in."

Audio of Garamendi's remarks is available [here](#) .

More information on HR 676 is available [here](#) .